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*Department of State*

## Action

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GEORGE BROWN LAST NIGHT GAVE EMBOFFS BACKGROUND TO LABOUR PARTY EXECUTIVE STATEMENT ON CUBA, RELEASED OCT 24, INCOMPLETELY REPORTED IN WORLD PRESS, AND INTERPRETED BY CERTAIN OBSERVERS (DREW MIDDLETON IN NY TIMES, OCT 25, FOR ONE) AS IMPLYING SOFT LABOR LINE ON AUTHENTICITY EVIDENCE OF SOVIET MISSILE SITES AND WEAPONS IN CUBA. (EMBASSY AIRGRAMMED COPIES OF NEC STATEMENT OCT 26.) PHRASES IN DOCUMENT AROUSING DOUBTS ABOUT LABOR POSITION WERE "IF LONG-RANGE MISSILES HAVE BEEN SET UP IN CUBA..." AND "THE ALLEGATION THAT LONG-RANGE MISSILES BASES ARE BEING INSTALLED IN CUBA..."

BROWN SAID HE ASKED GAITSKELL THREE TIMES BEFORE RELEASE TO REMOVE CONDITIONAL LANGUAGE AND OVER-CAUTIOUS ATTRIBUTIONS. GAITSKELL COULD NOT BE PERSUADED TO DO SO, NOT BECAUSE HE IS IN SERIOUS PERSONAL DOUBT ABOUT EVIDENCE (NOR ARE MOST OTHER MEMBERS OF NEC AND PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY FRONT-BENCH), BUT BECAUSE SUCH LANGUAGE WAS, IN HIS OPINION, LOGICALLY TIED TO SUGGESTED EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCE "ON SPOT BY IMPARTIAL COMMISSION SET UP BY UN." THIS RECOMMENDATION IS ALSO PART OF NEC STATEMENT. BROWN, HIMSELF COMPLETELY CONVINCED OF EVIDENCE, REGARDS GAITSKELL'S REASONING AS TYPICAL OF "DONNISH SCRUPLES." BROWN INSISTS US MUST STAND FIRM, NOT GIVE "BLOODY INCH", ABOVE ALL, IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDER DICKER WITH USSR ON TURKISH BASES.

IF ON BROWN'S READING GAITSKELL IS ESSENTIALLY SOUND ON  
POINT OF EVIDENCE, SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR OTHER MEMBERS

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OF PARTY, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE FAIRLY INFLUENTIAL LABOR LEADER. EMBASSY WAS RELIABLY INFORMED OCT 25 DENIS HEALEY TOLD IMPERIAL DEFENSE COLLEGE AUDIENCE HERE EVIDENCE OF SOVIET MISSILE BASES AND LONG-RANGE WEAPONS WAS "FAKED". HE WAS "RABID" IN DENOUNCING "FOLLY" OF US ACTIONS IN CUBA AND FOUND NOT ONE SINGLE EXTENTUATING CIRCUMSTANCE TO JUSTIFY IT. ACTUALLY HEALEY'S ~~ATTITUDE~~ ON US HANDLING CUBAN SITUATION GOES BACK LONG WAY. HE TOLD EMBOFF MONTHS AGO US WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT FACTS OF LIFE THERE AND LEARN TO LIVE WITH THEM. HE APPEARS TO HAVE LOST CONTROL OF HIMSELF IN JUDGING ELEMENTS IN PRESENT SITUATION. WHILE RESPONSIBLE BRITISH OPINION HAS REACTED COOLY AND, ON WHOLE, UNDERSTANDINGLY TO US COURSE IN CUBA, OTHERS, INCLUDING SMALL MINORITY OF COMMUNISTS, CND SUPPORTERS, PACIFISTS, AND DISTURBED CENTRISTS, HAVE VIOLENTLY DISSENTED.

BRUCE

HLN

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